



## LEAD AGENCY DECLARATION AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

June 28, 2013

### Wards Point Infrastructure Improvements (CEQR# 10DEP024R)

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Commissioner

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The New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC), on behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), is proposing Capital Project No. SER200208, Wards Point Infrastructure Improvements, which is located in Staten Island Community District 3 in the Tottenville section of Richmond County (“proposed project”). The proposed project area is primarily residential single-family uses.

The proposed project involves construction of a new stormwater outfall, installation of new stormwater and sanitary collection sewers, relocation and replacement of water mains along with the reconstruction of affected streets, and tidal wetland restoration. The proposed project area is generally bounded by Amboy Road to the north, Satterlee Street to the east, the southerly end of Wards Point Road to the south, and the Arthur Kill to the west.

The proposed project would provide a stormwater collection system and a discharge location for the collected stormwater from newly sewered streets, thereby reducing runoff as well as local street and property flooding. The proposed project area has neither sanitary nor storm sewer service. Thus, a full network of stormwater collection sewers is proposed with a drainage outfall to the Arthur Kill for the collected stormwater, along with the removal of an existing substandard concrete drainage swale that handles runoff from the end of Amboy Road.

The proposed project also includes the installation of new sanitary sewers, which would eliminate the use of septic tanks in the proposed project area. The collected sanitary wastewater would flow to an existing interceptor sewer in Amboy Road and then be conveyed to the Oakwood Beach WWTP for treatment.

Finally, approximately 2,700 linear feet of 8-inch unlined cast iron water supply lines would be replaced with new 8-inch water pipes, thereby improving local water supply.

Specifically, the proposed project includes the following:

- Installation of a 3-foot-diameter stormwater outfall in a corridor about 40-foot-wide and 250-feet long extending from the west end of Amboy Road westward to the bulkhead line in the Arthur Kill.

- Installation of approximately 1,350 linear feet of stormwater collection sewers that would serve a drainage area of approximately 40 acres, including segments of Wards Point Avenue, Amboy Road, Satterlee Street, and Tottenville Place.
- Installation of approximately 1,000 linear feet of sanitary collection sewers along segments of Wards Point Avenue, Amboy Road, and Tottenville Place and serving a drainage area about 26 acres in size.
- Replacement of approximately 2,700 linear feet of 8-inch water mains that would serve an area about 60 acres in size (the area of proposed water main improvements is larger since the length of proposed water main is more extensive).
- Restoration, both on- and off-site, to offset approximately 3,075 square feet of tidal wetlands and adjacent area affected by the proposed temporary (construction period) impacts along with approximately 245 square feet of tidal wetlands and 480 square feet of tidal wetlands adjacent area that would be permanently affected by the proposed outfall structure.

The proposed stormwater outfall within Amboy Road would be installed in a corridor about 40 feet wide and 250 feet long that would extend out to the Arthur Kill from the end of the existing built street. A portion of this corridor is privately owned land within the mapped right-of-way of Amboy Road. This land would be acquired by the City of New York in order to provide the necessary land area to install the proposed outfall (currently, much of the corridor is occupied by a concrete drainage swale that was previously installed). The total amount of private land area to be acquired in the mapped right-of-way of Amboy Road is about 894 square feet.

Construction of the proposed stormwater outfall and splash pad would result in permanent and temporary impacts to intertidal sand beach and a littoral zone tidal wetland as designated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Littoral zone wetlands are not included in any other NYSDEC-designated wetland category and are submerged beneath tidal waters up to a depth of six feet at mean low water. The proposed on-site wetland restoration plan for temporary and permanent impacts includes the following:

- On-site restoration to pre-construction conditions of the approximately 225 square feet of coastal shoals, bars, and mudflats within the littoral zone that would be temporarily impacted during the construction of the proposed outfall. Under the proposed wetland restoration, debris would be cleared from the temporarily impacted construction area.
- On-site restoration of approximately 2,850 square feet of tidal wetland adjacent area that would be temporarily impacted during construction of the proposed outfall. Under the proposed wetland restoration, adjacent area would be restored with sandy beach and maritime grassland habitat.
- On-site creation of approximately 480 square feet of new maritime grassland habitat to address the 480 square feet of tidal wetland adjacent area that would be permanently impacted by the proposed outfall. This restoration would be provided at a 1 to 1 replacement ratio.

Off-site restoration is proposed for the approximately 245 square feet of coastal shoals, bars, and mudflats within the littoral zone that would be permanently impacted as part of the installation of the proposed outfall and splash pad, which requires a restoration area of about 490 square feet (at a ratio of 2 to 1). The objective of the proposed off-site restoration plan is to restore currently degraded tidal wetlands that are of low habitat value. The proposed restoration site is a publically-owned waterfront property under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority and located north of the proposed project site, just west of Ellis Street and the Staten Island Railway railyard in the Tottenville neighborhood. The proposed restoration site has approximately 3,150 square-feet of coastal shoals, bars, and mudflats and adjacent area that are in need of restoration. The proposed restoration activities would involve clearing debris that has accumulated in the wetlands, including rubber tires, concrete, asphalt, rebar, brick, fencing, and miscellaneous plastics (in total an estimated 25 cubic yards of debris would be removed). In addition, the proposed restoration includes intertidal plantings that would expand upon a small area of intertidal marsh vegetation.

Construction of the proposed project is expected to commence in late 2013 and be completed in late 2014. Thus, the duration of construction is expected to be about 12 months. This includes approximately 6 to 9 months of sewer, water main and street work, and 3 months for the construction of the proposed outfall. The proposed off-site wetland restoration should be completed in 60 days or less.

The proposed work may require the following permits and/or approvals:

- New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) street and sidewalk construction permit for the work in local streets.
- Coastal Zone consistency review by the New York City Department of City Planning (DCP) via the federal and State permit review process and approval for clearing and grading in the Special South Richmond Development District (SSRDD).
- Tidal Wetlands Permit for activities in tidal wetlands and tidal wetlands adjacent areas (Article 25, 6NYCRR Part 661).
- Water Quality Certification for activities in State waters (protection of waters, Article 15, Section 401).
- Protection Of Waters Permit for excavating or placing fill in navigable waters of the State, below the mean high water level, including adjacent and contiguous marshes and wetlands (Article 15, 6NYCRR Part 608).
- Modification of DEP's MS4 State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit (NY0026174) for an additional stormwater outfall (Oakwood Beach WWTP SPDES permit).
- SPDES General Permit GP-010-001 for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (this would be applied for by the project contractor as necessary).
- Industrial SPDES Discharge Permit for any temporary dewatering (this permit would be applied for by the project contractor as necessary).
- New York State Coastal Management Program Coastal Zone Consistency.

- Nationwide Permit 7–Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures, which authorizes activities related to the construction or modification of outfall structures and associated intake structures.

In accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act authorized by Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations as set forth in 6NYCRR Part 617, and the City Environmental Quality Review process as set forth in Executive Order 91 of 1977 and its amendments, this Department believes it is the appropriate lead agency and assumes responsibility for conducting a coordinated review for the above-referenced project. We request that involved agencies contact this office within 30 days from this notification should there be any objection to the Department assuming lead agency for this environmental review.

Attached for your review is a copy of the project's Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS). Any questions or comments regarding the project should be directed to Alexander Wolk at 718-595-6450 or [awolk@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:awolk@dep.nyc.gov) within 30 days.

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